



Newsletter

March 2004

Hello Folks,



The BIG event this month is the last of the swim escorts. As you will see from the information inside, this is an event suitable for everyone, from novice to the most expert. It is 4.5 km each way and at a slow pace. The Club also puts on a **superb** BBQ at the end as a way of saying thank you to those who have supported this most important fundraising event.

This year we will also have our new awning set up on the beach so that you will have shade from the fierce sun. (we have ordered sun and not rain for the 28th march!)

Ian

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Deadline for next month's newsletter: 12 April 2004

Useful phone numbers and addresses

Club address	23 Spinnaker Drive Te Atatu Peninsular, Auckland				
President	Matt Crozier	817 1984	Publicity Officer	Roger Lomas	579 8799
Vice President	Lindsay Sandes	522 3344	Safety & Training	Ken Marsh	828 0701
Patron	Su Sommerhalder	815 2073	Storage & Club		
Secretary	Rona Patterson	834 3399	Kayaks	Lindsay Sandes	522 3344
Treasurer	Alan Edwards	820-8115	50th Anniversary:	Peter Sommerhalder	815 2073
Membership	Matt Crozier	817 1984	Vine House:	Andrew Frances	021 142 4857
Trips Officer	Morgan Lewis	620 4005	Newsletter Editor	Ian Calhaem	579 0512
	Morganl@xtra.co.nz			IanCalhaem@xtra.co.nz	

The Club maintains two e-mail groups:

To subscribe to the discussion list, send a blank e-mail to: auckland-kayakers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
For event reminders, send a blank e-mail to: auckland-canoe-club-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Where can you go to get training?

Auckland Canoe Centre, phone 815 2073

Basic confidence course, Henderson Pool, Tuesday evenings
- \$120 for four sessions.

One-on-One rolling, Henderson Pool, Tuesday evenings
- \$149 for three sessions. \$55 for single 90 minute lesson.
Multisport Grade 2 Certificate, white water, sea kayaking
one and two-day courses run frequently.

Canoe and Kayak, phone 479 1002

Sea Kayaking intro course – Friday pool session, plus Sat/Sun
9 – 5, \$230

Rolling sessions, Northcote College Pool - \$150 for four
sessions.

White water, Multisport, Advanced Sea Kayaking, First aid and
First aid refresher courses available.

Fergs Kayaks, phone 529 2230

Basic paddling skills – paddle strokes, rescues – Sunday
morning, Okahu Bay - \$30 for Club members.

Learn to roll, one-on-one, heated pool - \$60 per hour.

White water, and Multisport River Racing courses also
available.

George Gerard, phone 814 8989 (hm), 367 0959 (wk).

Pool Training, Kelston Girls, Thursday evenings - \$95 for
first three sessions, \$10 thereafter. Intro Sea Kayaking,
White water, and Down River Racing courses on request
– courses are designed to fit what the participants want
- \$100 per day (approx), plus boat hire (\$10 / day)

Outdoor Discoveries Ltd, Chris Gulley, phone 813 3399

Intro Skills \$155, overnight Ocean Kayaking Course
\$245. Surfing Courses also available. Courses run by
professional SKOANZ Assessors/Guides. Details on
website www.outdoordiscoveries.co.nz

Positively Outdoors, Liz Maire and Christine Mcleod, ph 473 0027, fax 473 0731.

Two-day OSH certified outdoors first aid course - \$140

10% discount if four or more club members enrol for a course.

There are also a few club members that are experienced
instructors and with a bit of encouragement (bribery
and/or arm-twisting!) might be coaxed into giving a training
session...

Ian Calhaem, Rebecca Heap, Ken Marsh, John Maynard,
Mike Randall.

Safety Policy for Club Trips.

- 1 Any Club member who has any doubt about whether or not their skills are sufficient for a particular trip MUST contact the trip leader ahead of time to discuss safety issues.
- 2 It is your responsibility to wear a buoyancy aid, to be suitably dressed for the conditions, and to carry any other personal safety equipment necessary for the trip.
- 3 You must make a realistic assessment that your strength and endurance are sufficient for whatever is planned.
- 4 You must be able to re-enter your kayak (with help from another paddler if necessary) after a capsized in deep water.
- 5 With night paddling it is everybody's responsibility to provide their own large lens flashlight, or fixed all-round white light on a one metre high pole, in working order and mounted on the outside of the kayak where it can be seen at all times.
- 6 Use a craft appropriate for the trip. A kayak with water-tight bulkheads is essential for open sea kayaking. Sit-on kayaks are usually too slow to be able to keep up with sea kayaks, therefore, are not recommended on trips planned for sea kayaks.

Trips and Events Calendar

Remember to contact the trip leader before you set out. This is important because the leader needs to know the capabilities of those who are coming and to be able to contact you if the plan changes. Please be aware that you paddle on a Club trip at your own risk. Read the safety policy (page 2). If there is any chance that you may be a liability to the rest of the group or to the leader be sure to inform the leader of this before you set out.

TRIP CANCELLATIONS

The Club is now using "Newstalk ZB" cancellation service. This can be listened to on 1080AM or 89.4FM.

The service runs on Saturday and Sunday from 7:00am.

This should eliminate the multitude of phone calls to trip leaders when the weather looks suspect.

Regular Evening Paddles

Remember... you MUST have either an all-round white light on a pole, or else a large-lens (eg. Dolphin) torch, in good working condition, mounted on the outside of your kayak. This is actually a legal requirement, so, no light, no paddle. As discussed in a previous Newsletter, the Coastguard, do not recommend the use of flashing lights. It is apparently difficult to judge their distance and they are also used to signify danger. Also, it is advisable before going out on an evening paddle that you attend a basic skills course and ensure you are fit enough to be able to paddle for one hour.

All paddlers MUST provide their own night-lights. All skill levels welcome. Meet at Okahu Bay by 5:30pm, ready to be on the water by 5:45pm. An experienced paddler will be rostered on to look after new/novice/slow paddlers. Fitter and more-experienced paddlers can form their own group(s). Trips usually last 1 – 2 hours, destination dictated by tide, weather conditions and skill levels. Club boats can be hired at the subsidised rates of: \$5 to club members, and \$10 for non-members/guests. (At all other times, Club boat hire is \$20/day or part day , for members and guests.)

Saturday Morning Paddles

Saturdays Morning Coffee at Caf'e at Kohi. Meet at Okahu Bay by 9am, all skill levels welcome. Paddle duration will be about 2 hours, a great chance for new/novice/slow paddlers to mix and mingle with older/ experienced club members. Club boats can be hired. **For more details please phone Morgan Lewis on 6204005 or email morganl@extra.co.nz**

March

27-28 March Rangitoto overnight - 6:00pm depart. Paddle over to Rangitoto the night before the swim escort and stay at the scout bach. Bring something for a shared meal. Also bring your rollmat in case we run out of bunks (most seem to like sleep out on the deck), a torch (there's no electricity), and mossie repellent. There is a small charge (\$5) for the bach. Meet at the Okahu Bay ramp at 6pm. Have a light for your kayak - sunset is at 6:22pm. **Contact Matt Crozier 817 1984 or matt@vsl.co.nz**

28 March SUNDAY - Swim Escort. Rangitoto Wharf to St Heliers, 4.45km (each way).

Unless you are staying overnight at Rangitoto, meet at St Heliers (Vellenoweth Green) at 8:30am, departing for Rangitoto 9:00am. Race starts at 10:15am. Tide 12.26pm.

At least 55 kayaks required! Another Wolfgang special gourmet feast is planned afterwards at St Heliers!! The Auckland Volunteer Coastguard controls operations for the swim escorts on the water, and has stipulated minimum numbers of kayaks to be available before events will proceed. So now it is more important than ever for us to have your support for these events.

Because the distances are small and the pace very slow, there are no other trips the club does that are more suitable for novices.

Our job on the water is to guide swimmers if they veer too far off course and to flag down a roaming rubber boat if a swimmer needs to come out – simple! Also to keep an eye out for swimmers exiting the course (they must instead board a coastguard vessel). And it's a great social occasion to meet many other paddlers. Not to mention that the income we receive (based on kayak numbers) helps us keep your subs so low!

- All club kayaks are reserved for the swim escorts, and are available free of charge.

- If you have a VHF radio, please bring it. Initial comms are on channel 86, then move to channels 6 and 8 for each side of the course.

- Listen to the cancellation service on Newstalk 1ZB (1080Hz AM) in the morning if the weather looks dodgy.

- Please STAY in the area until the last swimmer arrives, in case a search is needed.

NOTE: Tamaki Drive will be closed to traffic all morning until 10:30am for the 'Bike The Bays' (based at Okahu Bay). However we will have access to Vellenoweth Green via St Heliers Bay Road, Benbow Street and then cross to the beach at appropriate times.

Please make sure you ring Matt Crozier 817 1984 (just leaving a message is sufficient), if you intend to come. Especially if you require a club kayak. This will help avoid a panic!



April

4 April, Sunday. Manukau Heads. This trip is an old favourite. Meet at Cornwallis Wharf at 9.30am for a 10.00am departure; (don't take the turn-off to Cornwallis Beach). We will be carried by the ebb tide down to South Head, picnic on the grassy slopes below the Signal Station, and take a stroll over the headland. This walk includes great views over the Manukau Bar, plus "Rona's Leap". Then if time and weather permits we'll cross the channel to land at Whatipu, before getting a tide-assisted ride back up the harbour. Paddling time will be one hour each way; return time about 6.00pm. Bring drinks, snacks, lunch, shoes or sandals, and a camera. This trip is suitable for intermediate and experienced paddlers; (if in doubt phone Colin to discuss). It is weather-dependent. All those coming must phone Colin Quilter 630 2219 on Sunday morning between 7.00 and 8.00am to confirm the trip is on.

9 - 12th April The Jubilee Easter Trip to Kawhia and Aotea harbours -- Fifty years old is a good reason to seek a sea-kayaking destination that is steeped in history. Kawhia Harbour is a drowned river valley system, shallow and tidal, occupying an area of almost 13 kilometres by 13 kilometres. Its entrance is however obstructed by a bar, a feature of most harbours on the western coasts of New Zealand, which prevents their development as ports for heavy shipping. On the northern shore, inside the entrance, is the final resting place of Tainui, the migration canoe from which the Waikato Maori claim descent. Two large upright stones mark the stern and prow of the buried canoe. With a population of some 650, the town of Kawhia functions mainly as a holiday resort; harbour tours and fishing being the major attractions. The area also features the most southern stand of New Zealand's forest giant, the Kauri. At Te Puia (Hot Water) Beach, hot springs well up through the sand. Between low and mid-tide you can scoop out a hot pool and enjoy a seaside soak.

Previously defined formations of the Upper Jurassic Murihiku Supergroup (Kirikiri, Ahuahu, and Owhiro Groups) based on the south Kawhia coast are mapped south to the Te Anga area. The Kirikiri Group consists dominantly of siltstones, mudstones, and fine to very fine sandstones. Siltstones and mudstones dominate, and medium-coarse sandstones and conglomerates are common in northern exposures of the Ahuahu and Owhiro Groups. Most formations thicken southwards and fine southwards and eastwards. Calcareous concretions are intercalated in mudstones and siltstones throughout the sequence. At least five belemnite species, of mostly Middle Tithonian age, are present in the upper Ohauan Kinohaku Siltstone at Kawhia Harbour. Two are previously undescribed. They and three known taxa are described using modern methods. *Belemnopsis aucklandica trechmanni* is present through most of the upper Ohauan, *Hibolithes minor* (Hauer), *Hibolithes kaimangoensis* n. sp., *Hibolithes otekensis* n. sp., and *Hibolithes* (formerly *Belemnopsis*) *spathi* (Stevens) occur near the top of the stage.

This is the kind of stuff you find on the Net when all you want is information on a reasonable campsite. I'll keep searching and advise accordingly nearer the time. The plan is to arrive Friday (or Thursday night if possible) and make plans from there. Highlights include some amazing limestone formations on the south-west of the harbour, a lovely, some would say slightly eccentric, community on the southern entrance and the above mentioned hot springs. Aotea Harbour is also worth a visit but this will depend on the tides as this is a very shallow harbour with a truly terrible entrance that we will avoid at all costs. (Did you get that Ryan and Brian?.)

Trip leader is Vincent Maire. To register your interest **please email vincent.maire@extra.co.nz or telephone (09) 424-2293, evenings.**

May

22nd May - Jubilee Dinner. The Jubilee Dinner will be at Romfords Restaurant, Tamiki Yacht Club. Tickets are available from Peter Sommerhalder ph 815-2073 (day) or Philip Noble 273-4896 (day). See details on page 7.

For sale

EX Auckland Canoe Club Crosswond double sea kayak \$1550.00. This is a great price - the club is upgrading. Please call Lindsay Sandes 021 985 940

Albatross in good condition, yellow and red with sprayskirt and paddle if required. \$2150. Contact marcell ph (09) 636-5345

Pres Sez

Thank goodness February is over! The month with weather from hell (well, the tropics anyway). Hopefully it didn't ruffle you paddles too much. It seems that Autumn is promising much more mild and consistent conditions.

The Coastbusters forum last weekend enjoyed the best weather in years, on top of an already jam-packed programme. John Dowd's presentation was very entertaining, despite the stubborn technology. Shawn Baker's rolling acrobatics with nothing more than a big squashed stick, heavy brick, or large pebble was awe-inspiring! Is there going to be a general move towards Greenland style paddles now, I wonder? It was also surprising to see just how many there are who spend their nights in the shed crafting their own home-built kayaks, and to marvel at their quality.

Swim Escorts

Despite the last swim escort around the waterfront being cancelled because of the forecast, a big thanks to those who made the effort to be available. It's sad that two have been cancelled in one season, but it seems this is way with the liabilities now facing event organisers.

The big one is coming up! Rangitoto Wharf to St Heliers on March 28. See elsewhere in the newsletter for details. If you only come out for a paddle once this year, please make it for this swim escort – we need your help. We will be looking for around 60 kayaks to support the swimmers, and that's about double the number we've managed in recent years. We will be ringing to remind you and give you further information, so please don't turn down your caller if you are able to come.

Don't forget Wolfgang's gourmet brunch afterwards at St Heliers – if that's not reason enough to come along, I don't know what is.

Mahurangi Bach (Vine House)

Many thanks to Wendy Dykes who has attended a 'Growsafe' course, sponsored by the ARC. Wendy's new skills will be put to work in the coming working bees to help deal to the weeds around Vine House. These pesky numbers seem to love it there more than we do so they need to be controlled regularly. It will be a big job so come along prepared to help. See the calendar for details on the next working bee – March 20/21.

Many thanks also to the builder, Peter Glithro, who has done wonders for the building. And of course, thanks to the members who visited over the summer months to help him out. Major changes include refitting the bathroom with a shower, and a new deck and roof. The water tanks have been cleaned, sealed, and re-plumbed.

The ARC seem keen to open up access to Vine House to the general public. The club has intended controlled access to organised groups or club members and ARC staff. We are concerned about being liable for certain actions when we are not able to control usage. This aspect has slowed progress on the license agreement side, but we are still optimistic for a mutually beneficial outcome.

Kayaks

We have decided to replace the Crosswind double sea kayak for a Dobbie Double. The Dobbie craft is better suited to expedition paddling and is more robust. It is a much heavier kayak, though, so hirers will need suitable equipment for transport.

Also a note about sit-on-top craft. These are great for coastal paddling over relatively short distances. They would not be suitable for some of our trips over open seas or longer distances.

Membership

At the last AGM, the committee was empowered to review and set club membership subscriptions for the following year. In the light of that, the committee has decided to raise club subscriptions by \$5 (to \$30 Senior, \$35 Family membership) in line with movements of other organizations. This will be effective in the new financial year, which begin 1 April 2004. We trust you would agree that, even at those rates, the services provided by the club and the free time and energy that committee and members alike devote to activities are still value for money.

Just a reminder that new members who have joined from January 1st 2004 have membership right through to March 31st 2005. For the rest of us, subs are due to be renewed March 31st this year.

Annual General Meeting

It may be early notice for the AGM, scheduled for May 18th, but it would be good to start thinking now about what you would like to get out of the club, any direction you think we should be taking, or any niggles you have that you think should be raised. Promote discussion about any issues with committee members or among yourselves. Any motions can be discussed closer to the time, so that we can make final decisions more quickly on the night of the AGM.

Any specific motion should be sent to the Secretary before the next Committee Meeting (13th April) so that it can be published in the next Newsletter and included in the Agenda of the AGM.

New Members

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members, who have joined since December last year.

Elvin	Alberts	Bernhard	Kammel
Tony	Babich	Peter	Keegan
Basheba	Beckmann	Carsten	Kuenz
Kylie	Bickley	Dean	Leigh-Lancaster
Bob	Burns	Ryan	Mehlhopt
Christophe	Canniveng	Kristel	Moderman
Shane	Carter	Pamela	Morse
Jim, Margaret, Ben, Raiza	Coote	Diane	Newcombe
Brian, Stephen, Marina, Hong, Michael	Dorrell	Carlos	Nieto
Robyn	Fond	Michael	O'Brien
Carly, Barb, Tjala, Keahi, Nik, Rani, Natahma	Frances	John	Redward
Linda	Frey	Paul	Reifel
Brian	Gaston	Mark	Roberts
Russell	Gillies	Rob	Stewart
Jonathan, Sandi, Henri	Graham	Kay	Thompson
Michael, Jill, Luke, Jessica	Hindmarsh/Bence	Janine	Thomson
Ellen	James		

Cheers, M@
(817 1984, matt@vsl.co.nz)



Dinner Tickets

Please keep Saturday, 22nd of May, free for the Jubilee Dinner and mark it in your calendar now. We would like to make this the highlight celebrating 50 years Auckland Canoe Club.

The dinner will be at the Tamaki Yacht Club on Aucklands waterfront. All club members, past and present, their friends and families are invited to attend. A Master of Ceremony will guide us through a delightful evening. It will be a buffet dinner with light background music. A chance to catch up and form new friendships. More details will be available closer to the this semi-formal event.

Tickets for the meal including one pre-dinner drink will cost \$65 per person. Auckland Canoe Club has generously agreed to subsidise the dinner by \$30 per person who is a current financial club member, or has registered and paid the \$10 fee for the Jubilee activities. We appreciate if you would book early and order your tickets by filling in the details on the form enclosed.

The organisers are looking forward welcoming many paddlers to the Tamaki Yacht Club and are curious seeing you "dressed up" rather than in paddling gear.

Further information is available by phoning Peter Sommerhalder on 815-2073 or Philip Noble on 273-4896 (day time phone numbers).

Peter Sommerhalder, Chairman Jubilee Committee

JUBILEE DINNER TICKETS - Order Form

Please send me _____ dinner tickets at \$35 each (members) \$ _____
 _____ dinner tickets at \$65 each (non members) \$ _____
 Total payment enclosed \$ _____

Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____

Phone Home _____ Mobile _____

email _____

Payment details (Please circle): Cheque enclosed Visa Mastercard

C/Card No _____ Expiry _____

Name on card _____

Please make cheques out to Auckland Canoe Club. Credit card details can be phoned through to the Auckland Canoe Centre on 815-2073 if preferred. email contact is: dinner@kayak.co.nz

Where are the polo players?

No canoe polo practice or ball throwing exercises in the club rooms have been noticed since a group of paddlers approached the club about joining.

Karl Reece, their spokesman, visited me recently to explain that he is moving to Nelson to further his studies and to be near white water to practice his paddling skills in Murchison. Most of his canoe polo team mates have joined existing Auckland canoe polo teams. However, ACC paddlers wanting to give canoe polo a go are encouraged to **contact Paul Rountree, phone 027 288-7313**. He will improve your ball skills in a kayak.

Coastbusters 2004

More than 120 recreational seakayakers from all over New Zealand experienced a thrilling weekend in Orewa and Sullivans Bay, Mahurangi Harbour. The aim of the organising Red Team was to improve skill levels for seakayakers. An exciting mix of lectures, demos and "paddles on" scenarios was the key to get new skills. Guest speakers John Dowd (seakayaking) and Shawn Baker (specialising in Greenland style kayaking) from Canada and USA kept us spell bound and entertained. Their presentations were complemented with contributions by New Zealand authorities not only in kayaking, but subjects like navigation in the South Pacific, weather, food, helath, safety/risk management and more.

Highlights without doubt were the rescue demonstration by the team in the Westpac helicopter and the rolling demonstrations eskimo style. Builder/owners of wooden seakayaks displayed and paddled their incredible home built "masterpieces".

So infectious is the enthusiasm from the new things learned, Brian Strid intends to organise a competition in "crooked arm rolling with a 8kg brick" instead of a paddle. Now beat that!

Peter Sommerhalder, Auckland Canoe Centre, 502 Sandringham Road, Sandringham, Auckland 1003, New Zealand
Phone 64 9 815-2073, Fax 64 9 815-2074 www.kayak.co.nz

Interest In Pool Training

If you are interested in pool training on a Monday night in Glen Innes pool., Please **contact Ken Marsh 09 828 0701** and get on the interest list, Leave a message. We hope to start in mid April. The cost will be \$10-15 per night depending on numbers. Other club members will help you with support strokes, water confidence and an introduction to paddle rolls. If another week night is preferred please let me know. **Dr. K. B. Marsh, HortResearch, Private Bag 92-169, Auckland, 64-9-815 4200 ext 7178**

Equipment and lockup security update

ACC has a range of equipment available for club trips including single & double kayaks for hire. Hire includes PDF, spray skirts and paddles

note Ian Calhaem Storm is withdrawn from general ACC usage due to recent damage.

2 marine radios. These are great for trip leaders

a new, large lightweight camping flysheet & poles. This is a must for overnight camping trips and provides great cover and communal meeting/cooking place.

Please contact Lindsay to arrange uplift and use of radios & tent fly for club events

Lockup Security

I have received several complaints from club members regarding lack of security at the lockup - padlock not closed or shed left open. Please ensure the lockup is closed and padlocked after each entry as club & private kayaks are at risk.

To overcome the current security risks, the lockup combination number will change on Saturday 13 March. To obtain the new number, please ensure you are a paid up member of the club, and contact Lindsay or a committee member for the new number.

Paddle Found

I am still the proud owner of somebody elses not too shoddy paddle. If anybody left a paddle at the Okahu Ramp last week please contact me at 09 528 5188 or gavinbaker@clear.net.nz and you can be reunited with said paddle. Personally I find paddling with my hands inefficient and slow, not to mention demeaning.
Gavin Baker <gavinbaker@clear.net.nz>

The Jubilee Easter Trip 2004

We will be staying at the Kawhia Beach Side Escape motorcamp, which is the town's only camping ground that fronts directly on to the harbour. This is a small campsite and other than a few caravans we may well have it all to ourselves. I have booked enough space for 20 small sized tents, most of which will be on the waters edge. To see a view of the camp go to www.kawhiabeachsideescape.co.nz

The cost is \$11 per person per night for a beachfront tent site and \$10 per person per night for a back tent site. Note that cars cannot be parked by tents are on the beachfront. Vehicles will be located elsewhere in the campsite.

If you are bringing a large tent (4-6 person) please book your space with the campground. The number is below.

There are also cabins and if you want one of these you have to book directly (and soon) with the campground. The number is (07) 871-0727. The camp has a kitchen with all pots, pans, plates, etc, supplied so all you need to bring is food.

We will be having a shared meal on Sunday night.

The campground is situated on the main road into Kawhia soon after you enter the 50km zone. The address is **225 Pouewe Street (PO Box 74), Kawhia.**

TIDES

	Kawhia	Aotea
April 9	12.41	12.19
April 10	13.34	13.12
April 11	14.37	14.15
April 12	15.51	15.29

At this stage I have told Bronwyn at Kawhia Beach Side Escape that most of us will be arriving on Thursday evening. Because of the size of the place (it's not big) numbers may be limited so please tell me ASAP if you are coming.

Vincent Maire
(09) 424-2293
025v 2766032
vincent.maire@xtra.co.nz

Around Motutapu

On opening emails on the Saturday of Anniversary Weekend, I was delighted to read that Colin and Ailsa were to do an overnight trip to Home Bay, and were asking for companions. A reasonably short trip, with one night stop-over appealed to me.

On Sunday morning at 9am Colin Quilter, Ailsa Duffy, Sue and Philip Noble, Des Matthews, John Stairmand and myself assembled in perfect weather on the beach at St Heliers Bay. Once the boats were packed and ready to go, Colin said that as we had plenty of time, we might like to visit Rakino or the Noises!! So much for my nice, short paddle!!!

Colin got his tides exactly right as with calm waters and no wind, we crossed to Islington Bay and slipped through Gardner's Gap for our first stop and for Colin and Ailsa to have their first swim. Once fed and watered, we continued around the back of Motutapu and stopped at a little rocky bay for lunch and the second swim for the day. During lunch we couldn't help but notice that we were looking directly at Rakino, which was beckoning us. Of course, once around the back of Rakino, we were facing the Noises, and while it would have been fabulous to have paddled around, I was wearing out. With so little paddling during the past 18 months, I was beginning to suffer with painful elbows. (How can that be? Paddlers don't get sore elbows!!!) We stopped for a drink at the bottom of Rakino before heading for Home Bay and another swim. Colin and Ailsa had already set up camp before we arrived and helped us up to the camp.

Rona patterson

The Poem

In which 16 intrepid Club Members set off on a week's holiday together after Christmas, Coromandel to Whangapoua, encounter foul and fair weather, reinforce the view that there is nowhere quite like Aotearoa/New Zealand and I - and hopefully everyone else - arrive home tired but happy.

Sixteen souls in all set out
To do the Coromandel
Rosie wore a classy hat
It suited her so well.

Our leader brave was Vincent
Upon whom we all relied
To find the choicest possies
For the company to abide.

The first day out was windy
The second day as well
To Brian it was heaven
As he played the breaking swells.

Well, after that we landed
At a place called Fantail Bay
Vincent's scrumptious pikelets
Really made our day.

Fantail Bay is brilliant
Long may these DOC sites last
The birds, the creek, a gift of fish
What more was there to ask.

While we were there it rained and rained
And rained and rained and rained
The weather couldn't have been worse
But our spirits never waned.

Graeme Jude and Jodi
Bore testament to this
Their banter kept us cheerful
Don't give them a miss.

Anne's interest in Enneagram
Brought us up to date
About our real characters
And how we seal our fate.

Debbie of the Book Club
Was paddling to inspire

With all the titles yet unread
We'd only to enquire.

The sun came out on Tuesday
So we walked to Jackson's Bay
The wind was still impossible
Once more a day's delay.

Day five the weather Gods smiled on us
So 'twas off at seven a.m.
With a following wind and rolling sea
The paddling was a gem.

What really did impress me
Was when Kevin hit the sea
He was up in his boat and all pumped out
In the flick of a fantail's knee.

Day six approaching Waikawau
Sun, swells, rocks, and fun
Evan left us near here
For somewhere, he had to run.

The Bay of Plenty paddlers
Joined us hereabouts
An Irish paddler was in the group
It was her first time out.

Trev's paddock was our next abode
New Years eve was nigh
Kai moana Philip caught
Ryan made a fishy pie.

Erica's family joined us
Some time in the day
Two kids and Dad were simply there
To help her on her way.

We shared a sumptuous meal
With wine and Susan's cake
I missed out on Des's pudding
Which was a big mistake.

Yes, we saw the New Year in, we did
We stuck to traditional lore
So we sat on the beach and watched, we did
To welcome two double oh four.

David loves those rocky swells
He gets in amongst the foam
Jodi got a taste of it
Before she headed home.

Graeme shot off in the front
To pick out landing spots
I was always Tail End Charlie
Paddlers often distant dots.

Coming in to Whangapoua
Something I'd never tried
My little boat sat on a rock
The only damage, pride.

Brian didn't see it
Much to his disgust
And as the Tail End Charlie
It was save myself or bust.

Up the creek hop on the bus
To Coromandel Town - quite near
Pick up the cars and drive on back
To collect the boats and gear.

It all came to a sudden end
As all good things so do
Lots of hugs and chat all round
From all of us, thank you.

Mike Randall

Deadline for next month's newsletter: 12 April 2004

Send articles to:

lanCalhaem@xtra.co.nz

Please include "Newsletter" in the subject.

AUCKLAND CANOE CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM



- New Member
 Rejoining

Surname:.....

First Name(s) (If family, please list all names):

Address:

Phone (home)..... Mobile Fax

Phone (work) Email

Rate your Experience:

I have completed a basic skills course.

No experience

Novice (confidently forward and backpaddle, paddle for 30mins without rest)

Intermediate (able to brace, perform a deep water entry, paddle for at least 2 hours or 25 km's)

Advanced (self rescue in all situations, off-shore paddling experience)

Do you own a kayak ? Yes No If Yes list type/s:

Please tick the types of kayaking you are most interested in:

Sea Kayaking

Polo

Sea Kayak Racing

Whitewater

Surf/rodeo

Multisport

Kayak Trips: Are you interested in co-ordinating kayak trips Yes No

Fees for year ending 31 March 2005 (Please tick amount being paid)

Member \$30

Family \$35

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$.....

To comply with the Privacy Act 1993, please read and complete the form below.

I Agree (Please tick one)

I Disagree

To let the Auckland Canoe Club publish my name, address, phone number, or any other information concerning me in the Club Newsletter or to National Canoe Associations. I accept responsibility for correcting this information where applicable.

The Auckland Canoe Club and its officers take no responsibility for any injury any person may suffer, or any damage to equipment, while participating in the club's kayaking activities. Any person, who does participate, acts at his or her own risk.

Signed **Date**

Please return to: Matt Crozier, Auckland Canoe Club, 51 Waima Crescent, Titirangi, Auckland



Sender: Auckland Canoe Club, 23 Spinnaker Drive, Atatu, Auckland